



August 2, 2013

Brenda Bethea
Head of School
Community Academy Public Charter School
1351 Nicholson Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

Re: FFY 2011 LEA Determinations

Dear Ms. Bethea:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA) requires the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) as the State educational agency (SEA) to make determinations annually about the performance of local educational agencies (LEAs). OSSE is required to use the same categories that the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) uses for state determinations as outlined in Section 616(d) of IDEA. In making such determinations, OSSE will assign LEAs one of the following determination levels:

1. Meets Requirements
2. Needs Assistance
3. Needs Intervention
4. Needs Substantial Intervention

OSSE has determined that, under IDEA section 616(d), for FFY 2010 Community Academy Public Charter School (Community Academy PCS) **Needs Intervention** in implementing the requirements of Part B of IDEA. OSSE's determination is based on the totality of the LEA's data and information, including the LEA's:

1. History, nature and length of time of any reported noncompliance; specifically, the LEA's performance on Indicators 4b, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as outlined in the State Performance Plan (SPP) and FFY 2010 Annual Performance Report (APR);
2. Information regarding timely, valid and reliable data;
3. On-site compliance monitoring, focused monitoring and dispute resolution findings;
4. Sub-recipient audit findings;
5. Other data available to OSSE regarding the LEA's compliance with the IDEA, including, but not limited to, relevant financial data and compliance with the Funding for Public Schools and Public Charter School Amendment Act of 2011;
6. Performance on selected SPP results indicators; and
7. Evidence of correction of findings of noncompliance, including progress toward full compliance.



Enclosure 1 explains the criteria for each element and the way existing data provided by LEAs were used to make determinations. Not all elements are applicable to each LEA; for example, some LEAs do not have data for Indicator 12, as they do not serve children within the applicable age range (3 years old). Enclosure 2 describes how Community Academy PCS's determination level was calculated. It includes a chart that summarizes each required element, its corresponding rating, the total number of points earned by the LEA and the percentage of applicable points earned by the LEA.

The LEA's FFY 2010 determination was Needs Assistance. Although IDEA section 616(e)(2)(B) and 34 CFR §§300.600(a) and 300.604 do not require enforcement actions, OSSE has elected to advise Community Academy PCS of available sources of technical assistance in order for the LEA to improve performance and results for children and youth with disabilities. Specifically, OSSE publishes its Specialized Education Training & Technical Assistance calendar each fall. These technical assistance opportunities are also communicated to LEAs via the OSSE "Look Forward" newsletter, LEA meetings, and e-blasts. For more information regarding OSSE's Division of Specialized Education Training & Technical Assistance Unit, please contact osse.tta@dc.gov.

OSSE is also requiring Community Academy PCS to work with OSSE's Quality Assurance and Monitoring unit to complete and implement the attached Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Please note that the CAP outlines two types of required actions: "OSSE-initiated" actions and "LEA-initiated" actions. OSSE-initiated actions are included when identified noncompliance makes the specific action a priority. LEA-initiated actions are included to address areas that OSSE views as a "supporting condition" for ensuring improvement, and for which OSSE would like the LEA to develop the actions it believes will be most effective based on its specific context. OSSE encourages the LEA to integrate CAP activities into its larger strategic planning efforts.

By May 31, 2014, the LEA must submit written documentation to OSSE of technical assistance accessed by the LEA and completion of all Corrective Action Plan requirements. In addition, OSSE will be hosting a determinations webinar on August 16th from 12:00 -1:00 p.m. All LEAs are invited to attend. LEAs who received a rating of "needs intervention" are required to attend. Registration information will be published in the OSSE Look Forward. Please contact Dr. Cheryl James, Manager of Monitoring and Compliance at Cheryll.James@dc.gov or 202-724-7803 for additional information.

Any LEA that believes that a specific element reviewed in the determination process is inaccurate may appeal its assigned determination level. The appeal must be made within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter. The request for appeal must include the submission of all information necessary for OSSE to reconsider the original determination level. Additional information regarding appeals may be found in Enclosure 2.

OSSE is committed to supporting Community Academy PCS's efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and looks forward to working with Community Academy PCS over the next year. As part of OSSE's ongoing effort to provide useful information to District of Columbia stakeholders, OSSE will be making determination results available to the public after the close of the appeals process.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Masoodi, Director of Quality Assurance & Monitoring, at 202-741-0479.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Maisterra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy Maisterra, Ed.D, MSW
Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Education

Enclosures (3)

cc: Jennifer Masoodi, Director, Specialized Education Quality Assurance & Monitoring